

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA
FLORENCE DIVISION

Randi LeFever and Keith LeFever,)	Civil Action No.: 4:19-cv-00060-RBH
)	
Plaintiffs,)	
)	
v.)	ORDER OF REMAND
)	
Mutual of Omaha Insurance Company,)	
)	
Defendant.)	
)	

Under 28 U.S.C. § 1441(a), a defendant is permitted to remove a case to federal court if the court would have had original jurisdiction over the matter. District courts have original jurisdiction “where the matter in controversy exceeds the sum or value of \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs, and is between . . . citizens of different States.” 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a)(1). Removal statutes are strictly construed against removal, and any doubts concerning the propriety of removal must be resolved in favor of retained state court jurisdiction. *Marshall v. Manville Sales Corp.*, 6 F.3d 229, 232 (4th Cir. 1993). In addition, “[t]he party seeking removal bears the burden of demonstrating that removal jurisdiction is proper.” *In Re Blackwater Security Consulting, LLC*, 460 F.3d 576, 583 (4th Cir. 2006) (citation omitted). This includes establishing compliance with the removal statute requirements. *See Marler v. Amoco Oil Co.*, 793 F. Supp. 656, 658-59 (E.D.N.C. 1992). Courts must narrowly interpret removal jurisdiction because of the significant federalism concerns that are raised by removing proceedings from state court. *Id.* Thus, all doubts are resolved in favor of remand. *See Shamrock Oil & Gas Corp. v. Sheets*, 313 U.S. 100, 108-09 (1941); *see also Mulcahey v. Columbia Organic Chems. Co., Inc.*, 29 F.3d 148, 151 (4th Cir. 1994).

In the instant matter, Defendant removed this case from the South Carolina Court of Common Pleas for Horry County pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1441 and 1446. Defendant based federal jurisdiction on diversity jurisdiction pursuant to §1332.

On January 10, 2019, Plaintiffs filed a stipulation as to the amount in controversy indicating the damages sought in this case are not in excess of \$75,000.00. Based on Plaintiffs' stipulation, it appears that remand is appropriate at the present time.

Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, this case is hereby **REMANDED** to the South Carolina Court of Common Pleas for Horry County, South Carolina. A certified copy of this Order of Remand shall be mailed by the Clerk of this Court to the Clerk of the Horry County Court of Common Pleas.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

January 11, 2019
Florence, South Carolina

s/ R. Bryan Harwell
R. Bryan Harwell
United States District Judge